

The National Bison Association (NBA) Weekly Update is an exclusive service for NBA members.

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NBA Weekly Update for September 2, 2022

The Weekly Update is a service designed to provide National Bison Association members with news and information affecting bison production and marketing. Many items in the Weekly Update are reprinted from outside sources. The content of those articles does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the National Bison Association. The articles are reproduced here only as a means to keep our membership informed as much as possible of all information and opinions relating to bison that is circulating publicly.



Happy Labor Day!

The NBA wishes all of our North American members a happy Labor Day this Monday, September 5th. We hope you all have a fun and safe weekend and commend you all for the fine work you do as today's bison stewards. In observance of the holiday, the NBA office will be closed on Monday.

NBA Regional Director Elections coming in Two Weeks - Nominations Sought

September 12th is the deadline for NBA members interested in running for election in Regions I, III, V and VII to submit nominations to the NBA office. The elections will be conducted from September 16 – 30.



According to the NBA bylaws, regional directors "shall be elected by a mail-in, or electronic ballot during September of each year prior to the expiration of the regions' directors' terms. If after the initial ballot, no one person in any region has more than 50% of the ballots cast, then a run-off election will occur during November, involving the two persons having the most votes cast in the September balloting. In case of a tie, a coin will be tossed to determine the winner. Only active and lifetime members residing within a region may vote in each region's election." Regional directors are eligible to serve two, two-year terms.

The directors elected in September will begin serving in January 2023.

In this election cycle, directors will be elected for two-year terms from Regions I, III, V, and VII.

The regions up for election, and the states included are:

- Region I, representing AK, AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA. Mary Adams, the current director is eligible for re-election.
- Region III, representing MT, ND, SD. Moritz Espy, the current director is eligible for re-election.
- Region V, representing IL, IN, MI, MN, WI, Jeremy Allemann of Wisconsin, is term-limited and cannot run for a third term.
- Region VII, CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT. Carie Starr, the current director is eligible for re-election.

Nominations for candidates interested in serving as regional directors must be submitted to the NBA at jim@bisoncentral.com by September 12th. Per the NBA bylaws, all regional directors shall have been active or lifetime members of the Corporation for at least two years and must have registered for and attended at least one general membership meeting or other NBA-sponsored event during the two immediately preceding years."

NBA Transitioning to New Phone System

The NBA is currently switching to a new phone provider to offer better service to our members. We'll have the same phone number, 303-292-2833, though extensions will change and will be as follows once the transition is final likely next week:

Jim Matheson, Executive Director - Ext. 700 Barb Dowdy, Bookkeeper - Ext. 701 Lydia Whitman, Program Manager - Ext. 702 Karen Conley, Bison World Editor - Ext. 703

Thank you for your patience. If you have trouble reaching us by phone during this transition, you can always email info@bisoncentral.com to reach us.

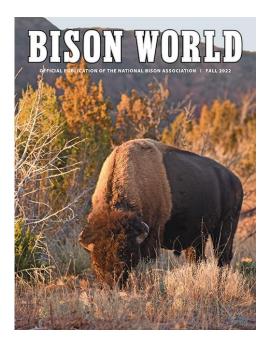
NBA Bison App Webinar Tutorial #3 Now Available to View Online

The NBA's third Bison Producer App How-To Webinar is not posted in the member's area of www.bisoncentral.com in the member's only area under Video Archives.

The webinar covered:

- 1. How to participate in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP)
- 2. Go through the process of transferring animals from one premise to another
- 3. Demonstrate traceability via herd.ly
- 4. QR settings for data sharing

Learn more about the Bison App and download on Apple and Android devices at https://bisoncentral.com/conservation-item/nba-producers-app/.



Fall Bison World Magazine Now Available Online

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the Fall issue has wrapped up, and it is now available on the Bison World bookshelf on the NBA website. You must log in to the member area to access the magazine.

You can view the flipbook version of the magazine right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, and even magnify certain features. The realistic page-turning sounds make it feel like

you are reading the printed version of the magazine. We are also incorporating links that will take you directly to websites and other areas of interest. Hover and click over links or ads to enable this feature.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed and will mail shortly.

Advertising Opportunities in the Winter Issue of Bison World

Production will soon be underway on the Winter 2023 issue of the Bison World magazine. This issue will also include our annual Membership Directory.

Various advertising options are available within the Winter magazine pages, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks, and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is October 10, with final materials due by November 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but are subject to the same deadline for the Winter issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com or call (605) 381-3738.

Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as genetic integrity, animal management, and other issues.



REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

JUST \$65/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT



Where the buffalo roam, endangered prairies thrive From National Geographic

wice a year for the last 29 years, scientists have waded through the same sections of tallgrass prairie in eastern Kansas and tallied up as many plant species as they could find. The goal was to determine the impact of American bison and cattle on the ecosystem, compared with plots of similar prairie protected from these grazers.

It's hot, tedious, and tick-infested work, but it is incredibly important: Tallgrass prairies used to cover a huge portion of Texas and stretch all the way up to southern Canada. Today this habitat, dominated by headand waist-high grasses and forbs, herbaceous flowering plants, is

imperiled. Tallgrass prairie is now present in just four percent of its former North American range.

Now, decades of diligence and data show a perhaps surprising result: When bison were allowed to graze through patches of tallgrass prairie, they boosted native plant species richness by a whopping 86 percent over the past three decades, according to a study published August 29 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Areas grazed by cattle also benefited native species, though they increased by just 30 percent. American bison, also called buffalo, provided nearly three times the environmental benefit as cows, and researchers aren't yet sure why. (See beautiful photos of grasslands and prairies.)

"We're still kind of surprised at just how large of an effect bison had," says study leader Zak Ratajczak, an ecologist at Kansas State University.

"I don't think anyone would have predicted this ahead of time."

Read more.

K-State study: Reintroducing bison to grasslands increases plant diversity, drought resilience From The High Plains Journal

A Kansas State University-led study has found that reintroducing bison—a formerly dominant grazer—doubles plant diversity in a tallgrass prairie. The research involves more than 30 years of data collected at the Konza Prairie Biological Station and was recently published in the prestigious journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, or PNAS.

The study found that plant communities also were resilient to the most extreme drought in four decades. These gains are now among the largest recorded increases in species richness because of grazing in grasslands globally, researchers said.

"Bison were an integral part of North American grasslands before they were abruptly removed from over 99% of the Great Plains," said Zak Ratajczak, assistant professor of biology and lead researcher. "This removal of bison occurred before quantitative records and therefore, the effects of their removal are largely unknown."

The study took place in the Flint Hills ecoregion, which is the largest remaining landscape of tallgrass prairie. Researchers examined plant community composition and diversity in three treatments that were designed to capture characteristic management regimes: no megagrazers were present; bison were reintroduced and allowed to graze year-round; or domestic cattle were introduced and allowed to graze during the growing season.

"Our results suggest that many grasslands in the central Great Plains have substantially lower plant biodiversity than would have occurred before bison were widely wiped out," Ratajczak said. "Returning or 'rewilding' native megafauna could help to restore grassland

biodiversity."

The study also found that cattle had a positive impact on plant diversity, compared to having no large grazers present, although increases in plant species richness were significantly smaller than those caused by bison.

Read more.

The Great American Bison is making a comeback From RFDTV

The Great American Bison is making a comeback due to a unique collaboration, according to the National Bison Association.

"We work very closely with tribal entities, who are also restoring bison to their tribal lands for commercial and cultural reasons, as well as conservationists. We work with public agencies, public herd managers, conservation groups, and we're all collectively restoring the species back to its native landscape here in North America," said Jim Matheson.

Bison were never domesticated, which allows them to remain regenerative by nature. That is why their meat contained little to no fat, making them a nutrient-dense protein.

The bison population topped 30 million in the late 19th century but was hunted to near extinction. Today, there are more than 400,000 head across the U.S.

Read more.

Montana ranchers, officials appeal bison grazing on US land

From The Great Falls Tribune

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A ranching group and Republican state officials have asked a federal panel to reverse the Biden administration's approval of bison grazing on U.S. lands in central Montana as part of a vast nature reserve.

Federal officials last month approved a request by the group American Prairie to graze bison on U.S. Bureau of Land Management property south of Malta. The Bozeman-based conservation group also intends to remove about 30 miles (48 kilometers) of fences so the animals can roam more freely.

The Montana Stockgrowers Association said Monday it had appealed the decision to the U.S. Interior Department's hearings division. Gov. Greg Gianforte and Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen also filed appeals.

An attorney for the stockgrowers association — a ranching group based in Helena — argued that the land at issue should be used to produce livestock, not for wildlife preservation.

"The public has an interest in maintaining community stability and the livelihoods of ranchers," stockgrowers attorney Karen Budd-Falen wrote.

She added that federal laws "do not grant any power to issue grazing permits for anything other than domestic livestock."

Budd-Falen served as deputy solicitor at the Interior Department during the Trump administration.

Read more.

Why the Marine Corps Maintains Its Private Herd of American Bison

From Military.com

When Europeans first came to North America, American bison roamed large swathes of land, stretching from the Great Plains to Mexico. Native tribes depended on these herds for food, clothing and tools, a sacred relationship, one that nearly led to the extinction of the species when it became a prime target for the U.S. Army during the Plains Wars.

In its effort to subdue the tribes of American Indians who would not be resettled onto reservations, the U.S. launched a campaign against the herds. If they could destroy the tribes' essential sources of food and materials, they could destroy the tribes. By the end of the 19th century, the bison's number plummeted from 30 million to just a few hundred.

Farming and ranching of herds has allowed the bison to return from the brink of extinction, coupled with extensive federal protections of the animals. There is one herd, however, that has the best protection available: the United States <u>Marine Corps</u>.

<u>Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton</u> is home to one of just two protected herds of American bison in California, with the other herd managed on Catalina Island. The Marine Corps herd can be found roaming in Delta and Charlie training areas, the Zulu Impact Area and in Case Springs, areas off-limits to the general public.

Camp Pendleton first received its bison from the San Diego Zoo between 1973 and 1979. The earliest numbers were small, just 14 individuals. The installation was a perfect home for the bison, and not just because there's no better friend than the Marines. Camp Pendleton is enormous; with 125,000 acres of land and two natural water sources, there's plenty of room on the range to roam.

Read more.

Prairie State Park in Barton County introduce their new pumpkin colored Bison calf From KOAM News

Although American Bison once roamed the entire state they were driven out 100 years ago. However Prairie State Park have been successful reintroducing them to the state.

Saturday Prairie State Park staff released a video of their newest addition.

"This little one is only days old and is staying very close to mom for protection and meals. Being the littlest, he sometimes needs to lay down

and rest with mom right there when the herd moves around, but they catch up quickly," park staff state online.

American Bison are the largest animals in Missouri. One can weigh 2,500 pounds. Obviously this little guy has some growing to do.

Park staff welcome the public, "Come on out and maybe you'll be lucky enough to see our new pumpkin colored calf!"

Read more.

USDA Announces Livestock Producers in 64 Oklahoma Counties Are Eligible for Drought Recovery Assistance Farm Service Agency Now Accepting Applications for 2022 Grazing Losses From USDA Press Release

STILLWATER, Okla., August 3, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting applications for the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) to provide financial assistance to eligible livestock producers for 2022 grazing losses due to a qualifying drought or wildfire. The deadline to apply for 2022 LFP assistance is Jan. 30, 2023.

To date, 64 Oklahoma counties have met the drought severity levels that trigger LFP eligibility for the 2022 program year. For LFP, qualifying drought triggers are determined using the U.S. Drought Monitor. Visit the FSA LFP webpage for a list of eligible counties and grazing crops.

"Persistent and severe drought conditions across the state have significantly impacted our livestock producers," said Steve Kouplen, State Executive Director for the FSA in Oklahoma. "Eligible producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to apply for drought recovery assistance."

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock producers and contract growers who also produce forage crops for grazing and suffered losses due to a qualifying drought or fire during the normal grazing period for the county. Eligible livestock include alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo/bison, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer or sheep that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland during the normal grazing period.

To expedite the application process, producers are encouraged to gather and submit records documenting 2022 losses. Supporting documents include information related to grazing leases, contract grower agreements, and more.

Read more.

Montana meat processing co-op plans fall opening From Meatingplace.com

A rancher-owned meat harvesting cooperative intends to begin

processing livestock this fall, according to a report in the Prairie Star.

The USDA-inspected Montana Premium Processing Cooperative (MPPC) facility, owned by Montana member ranchers, will initially process 3,000 to 3,500 head of cattle, sheep, hogs and bison a year, the report said. The co-op purchased a building in Havre, Mont., where it will park a semi-trailer that has been modified to be a kill floor.

Matt Rains, a rancher and chief of staff for the Montana Farmers Union, told the publication that cattle producers who have been sending finished steers to a large processing plant out of state started the co-op because they wanted to retail their own beef. Producers leave \$1,500 to \$2,000 "on the table" for every steer they sell, and wait times to get into a processing facility can be one to two years, he said.

The co-op is also partnering with Montana State University-Northern in Havre to train students in the meat business.

Read more.

Dr. Susan Keller Receives NDVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award

From North Dakota Veterinary Medical Assoc. News Release

The North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association (NDVMA) recently named Dr. Susan Keller of rural Mandan as the "2022 North Dakota Veterinarian of the Year." Dr. Keller was presented the distinguished award and honored at the 117th NDVMA Annual Meeting held in Mandan on August 14-16, 2022.

The NDVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award was established in 1975, to recognize the time and efforts by its members, above and beyond that of normal participation, for the good of the Association and/or profession. This prestigious award recognizes those members who have exerted outstanding leadership in building a stronger NDVMA and contributed significantly to veterinary medicine in North Dakota.

Dr. Keller is well known as she was appointed Deputy State Veterinarian in 1997 and became State Veterinarian in 2004. During Dr. Keller's almost 25 years total time serving in North Dakota's State Veterinarian office, she belonged to many professional organizations. Among them was the United States Animal Health Association for which she was President in 2007-2008 of the North Central Region USAHA. As State Veterinarian, she was also North Dakota's representative to the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, serving as the president of the organization from 2015-2017. Her leadership roles underscore her influence on animal health and movement policy, not just for the State of North Dakota, but nationally as well.

USDA awards \$21.9M in grants to strengthen meat supply chain From Meatingplace.com

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is devoting an additional \$21.9 million to support meat and poultry processors in developing new marketing opportunities under the umbrella of the agency's supply chain

initiatives program.

The Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grants are being awarded to 111 projects in 37 states to help build capacity and increase economic opportunities for small and mid-sized meat and poultry producers, USDA said in a news release.

The latest funding effort brings the total appropriation level to \$54.6 million. The money will help recipients launch a variety of programs, including plant modernization and expansion and equipment purchases that will enhance humane handling of animals and food safety efforts, the agency said.

AMS also is encouraging grantees and qualified companies to request assistance through the Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance Program, which connects participants to a national network of resources and expertise. That program already has provided assistance to more than 300 U.S. businesses and organizations since its launch earlier this year, USDA said.

Source.



Save the Date!

- 9/10/2022 NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop Mission, SD
- 9/15/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 9/24/2022 Rocky Mountain Bison Assn. Fall Ranch Tour WY
- 10/14/2022 Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association Fall Meeting WI
- 10/15/2022 NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop Villa Grove, IL
- 10/17/2022 Middle Creek Ranch Production Webcast Auction Online
- 10/20/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 11/02/2022 Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Annual Auction KS
- 11/05/2022 Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction SD
- 11/09/2022 Antelope Island State Park Bison Webcast Auction Online
- 11/17/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 11/19/2022 Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Simulcast Production Auction SD
- 11/25/2022 Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals MN
- 11/26/2022 Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale MN
- 11/27/2022 Rocking P Ranch Simulcast Production Auction SD
- 11/14/2022 TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction Online
- 12/01/2022 Kansas Buffalo Association Sale KS
- 12/01/2022 Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale UT
- 12/06/2022 Northern Range Buffalo Consignment Simulcast Auction Online
- 12/15/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online

- 1/02/2023 Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction Online
- 1/07/2023 Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction SD
- 1/17/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 1/18/2023 NBA Winter Conference Westminster, CO
- 1/21/2023 NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale Denver, CO
- 2/02/2023 Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference SD
- 2/04/2023 Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Simulcast Auction SD
- 2/11/2023 Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction SD
- 2/24/2023 Beltway Bison Consignment Auction PA
- 3/09/2023 Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction PA

Please visit https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/ for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to iim@bisoncentral.com and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events

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